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RACHELLE B. CHONG

May 31

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May 29, 1996

The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 844  
Washington, DC 20054

Re: Proposed Network-Affiliate Rule

Dear Commissioner Chong,

In three days our television station will be participating in the "Children's Miracle Network Telethon" to help raise money for children's hospitals. This is just one example of a public interest broadcast that we believe should take precedence over our network's programs. As local broadcasters we are in a position to recognize the needs of our viewers and communities and respond to them.

Of particular concern is the proposal to permit the networks to stop affiliates from making local public interest programs. These programs cannot be classified as public interest programs if they are not produced by the networks. Can you imagine the burden on the courts as the networks interpreted *economic programming*? The loss of local television viewers, their charitable contributions, and others who depend on local stations.

Right now we enjoy a good relationship with our network. We do not want to lose the *balance of power*, to steal an old cold war term. That balance allows us to preempt network programming to air local public affairs and news. That balance protects our localism. I ask that you maintain the balance of power that lets us serve our local public.

Sincerely,

*Matt James*

Matt James  
General Manager

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